ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and techniques to access a protected area of a storage device. In general, in one implementation, the technique includes: determining whether a storage device, in a data processing system running an operating system, includes a protected area, the operating system including a hardware abstraction layer; removing the storage area protection of the storage device from within the running operating system and without rebooting the data processing system; and providing information derived from the formerly protected storage area to a data processing system detection tool. Removing the storage area protection can involve volatilely resetting a storage address value. Providing the information derived from the formerly protected storage area can involve sending the information over a selected transport medium to the detection tool using a common packet structure that supports multiple transports. Moreover, a file system of the formerly protected storage area can be reconstructed.

10344225.doc